ROM November 1973

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Cover: **cynocephalus baboon** representing the Egyptian god Thoth, patron deity of scribes and god of science. 4th Century B.C.

Chairman's Newsletter

Dear Member:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce a new Museum publication, **ROM — November,** in which we plan to tell you of all that is happening at the Museum and to give you also a taste of things to come.

One facet of the Museum which is given high priority by both Directors and the Board of Trustees, is keeping you, the member, informed about the various programmes and activities in the Museum along with some of our plans for the future.

For some years this has been done in the form of **Preview** which, however, could not accommodate many special announcements and newsletters. The result was that a somewhat unwieldy package arrived at your door each month. **ROM** will amalgamate most of these elements into one handsome publication which will come to you each month except August.

There is, however, one important exception. The **Archaeological Newsletter** will continue to appear monthly in its present form, but will not be sent automatically to all Museum members as has been the case in the past. If you wish to continue receiving it, please write (or telephone 928-3651) to the Office of the Chief Archaeologist, so that your name will be included on the mailing list.

Many of you have probably learned about ROM's recent negotiations with the Toronto Transit Commission. Our idea was that the beauty of the Museum subway station would be greatly enhanced by displays of Museum objects.

The response of all the T.T.C. Commissioners was most enthusiastic. Now, the respective staffs will work together to create a station that will be unique in North America.

Ethnology Museumobile on tour in Ontario during the summer, 1973. For more illustrations see story **ROM on the Road** in this issue.

This is yet another example of the Museum's policy of taking ROM to the people. This one is rather close to home. Far more wide-ranging are the Museumobiles which are now touring the Province. You can read more about them elsewhere in this publication.

Noah Torno,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Spotlight

Comet against Toronto skyline, simulated by McLaughlin Planetarium.

Comet Kohoutek

This year will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view a comet. Although comets appear in the sky once every few years, they are usually too dim to be seen by the unaided eye. Comet Kohoutek, however, promises to be one of the great comets that will be visible to all.

Comet Kohoutek was discovered in March of this year by Lubos Kohoutek of the Hamburg Observatory. Early in November it will become visible to the unaided eye as a faint hazy ball of light. As the days pass it will move across the sky, changing in shape and growing in brilliance as it continues to approach the sun.

During the first half of December it will seem to move rapidly towards the sun and will become considerably brighter. There are indications that comet Kohoutek may become bright enough to be seen near the sun even during the daytime.

Comets, what are they? What does one look for in the sky? The McLaughlin Planetarium is presenting a show, from November 2 to December 2 in the Theatre of the Stars, to discuss and explain this phenomenon of the sky.

In addition, special tours of the Planetarium will be presented daily at 2 p.m. from November 20 to 23. Explanations of comet Kohoutek, what to look for and where to look, plus an introduction to the show in the Theatre, will be provided.

It's an event that the whole family should experience. For details on show and tour times, please check Preview.

Amarna Tour

Next February, Egyptian Art enthusiasts will have an opportunity to visit a superb exhibition of reliefs and statuary from the Amarna Period (1378-1362 B.C.). The exhibit will be at The Detroit Institute of Arts and ROM is organizing a bus tour to Detroit for the occasion.

Before departure there will be an orientation meeting with Dr. N. B. Millet, Curator of ROM's Egyptian Department, who will also accompany the tour. On arrival in Detroit there will be a sherry party to meet the Director of the Institute, followed by lunch. In the afternoon guided tours of the exhibit will be given with time allowed to see other areas in the Institute. The buses will arrive back in Toronto by 10 o'clock the same evening.

Final details are yet to be worked out but the anticipated cost will be $25.00 per person. It would be helpful in the making of plans if any interested members would write a note to the editor. Full details will then be sent to them when arrangements have been completed.

Cards and Gifts

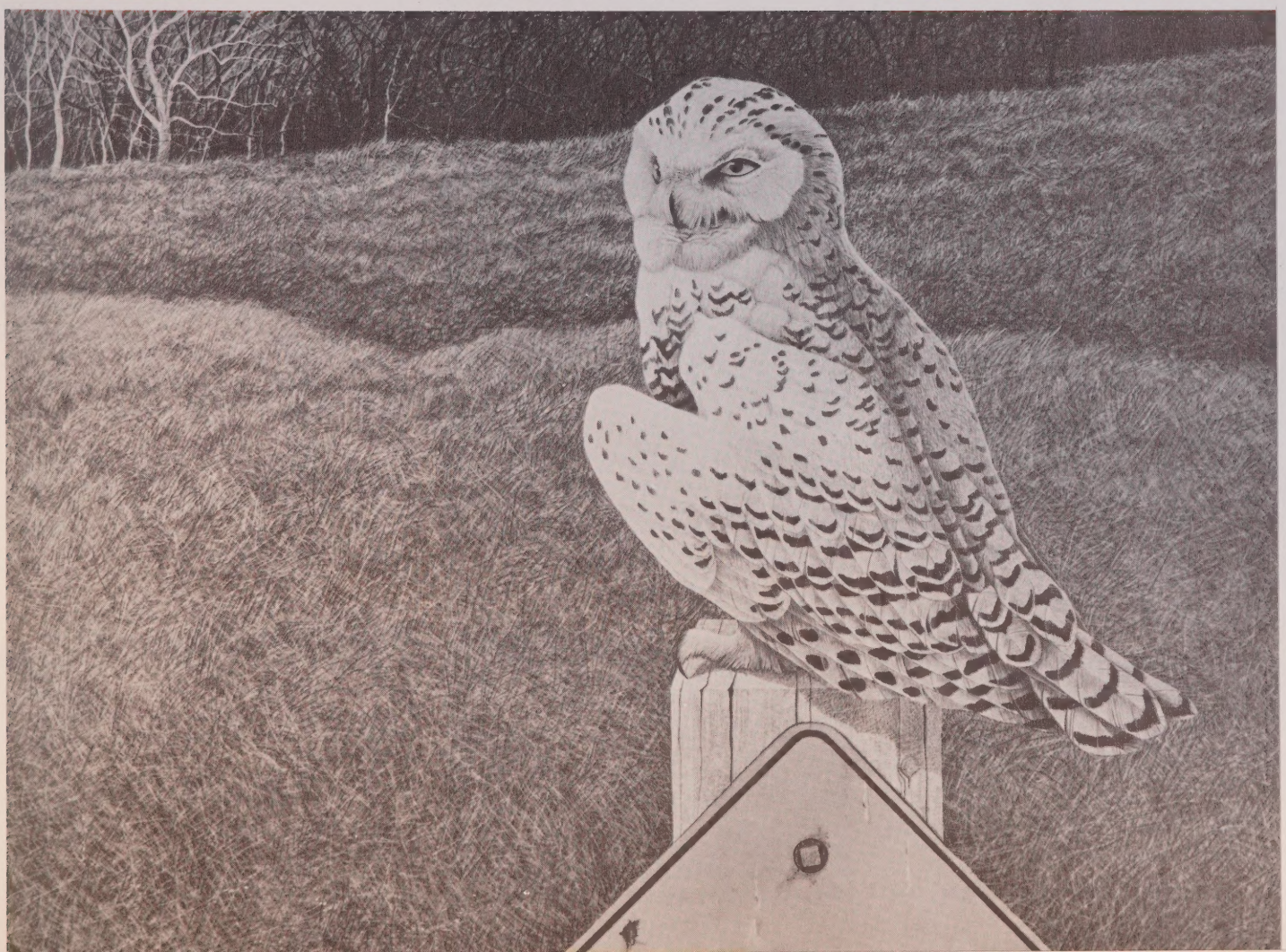
The Christmas Card Booth opened in the Main Rotunda in October. Open Tuesday to Thursday during Museum hours, this year it will feature four lovely new cards from ROM. Reproductions of originals from the Canadiana collections, a box of ten Krieghoff letter-cards with envelopes, or 12 watercolours, four each of three designs, with envelopes, are now on sale for $3.00 per box. Also available, a selection of calendars, gift tags and wrapping paper.

When hunting for that unusual gift, don't forget the two ROM replicas of the cynocephalus baboon, on cover, and the Egyptian bronze cat, the ROM King Street Print, as well as unique items from around the world in the Main Shop. Plus stocking stuffers, tree ornaments and gifts for children in the Mini Shop and astronomical books and aids in the Plantarium Shop.

Preview

November

Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park Toronto M5S 2C6



November 1973

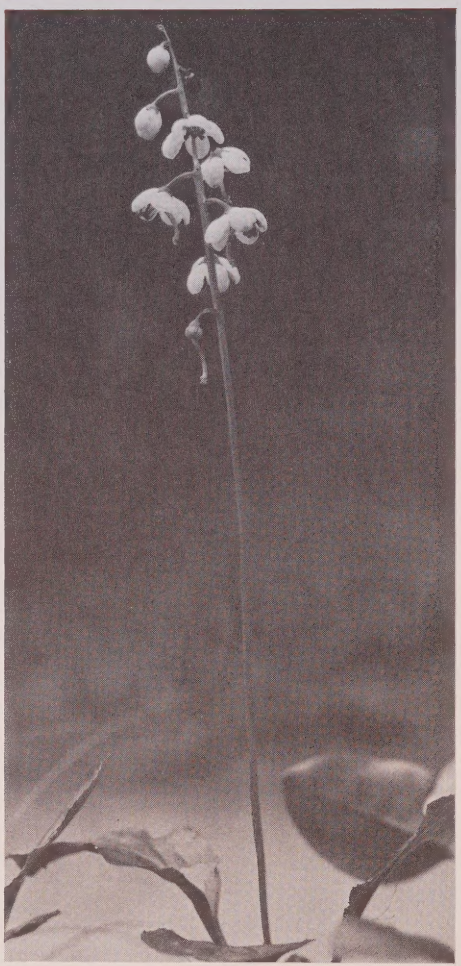
Art of the Illustrator to Dec. 9
A display of work done by some British and Canadian artists as book illustrators, from the Canadiana collections. Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building.

Kilim — Soumak — Cicim
Flat Woven Rugs from West Asia and the Balkans to Jan. 6
A selection of rugs from the Museum's collections, mainly 19th and early 20th century, and costumes showing the influence of rug weaving. Textile Gallery. Tours every Tuesday at 2 pm.

Ultramobile Collection to Nov. 25
"Ultramobile," from Italy, is not painting, not sculpture, not even furniture. It is 'art' that can be used as furniture. Third Floor Rotunda.

Pouffe from Ultramobile Collection.

Cover: Snowy Owl, acrylic on masonite by Gary Low.



Pond photograph by Jean Florence Hart.

The Pond Nov. 2 to Dec. 2
A series of photographs by Jean F. Hart which reflect the life and tranquillity of the pond. Lower Rotunda.

Children of the Ark Nov. 13 to Jan. 6
An exhibition of photographs of young animals born in captivity. Children's Gallery, lower level, closes at 5 pm.

Wildlife Paintings by Gary Low
Nov. 28 to Jan. 13
Watercolour and acrylic paintings based on observations of animals in their natural habitat and study of ROM's collections. Third Floor Rotunda.

Stamps to Dec. 1
Handstruck legislative postmarks of Canada before 1900. Stamp Corner, lower level.

The Comet Connection Nov. 2 to Dec. 2
A planetarium show related to the predicted appearance of a comet, Kohoutek, in November, December and January. The show will discuss and explain comets and their place in the solar system. Theatre of the Stars, McLaughlin Planetarium. Show times listed below.

Theatre of the Stars Show Times
Tuesday to Friday: 3, 8 pm
Saturday: 2, 3:30, 7:30, 9 pm
Sunday: 2, 3:30, 5, 7:30 pm
Holidays: 2, 3:30 pm
Shows last about 50 minutes. We regret that children under the age of six are not admitted to the Theatre.

Concert

Music in the Museum Wed. Nov. 7 at 5:30 pm.
Fresco Gallery, Free
The Toronto Brass Quintet will present a programme of early brass music.

Lectures

Between the Unknown and the Misunderstood: Archaeology of Man's Past and His Imagined Past Thursdays, 8 pm. ROM Theatre, Free
A series of illustrated lectures for people with a wide variety of interests and inclinations.

November 1
Camelot and King Arthur's Britain, by Mr. Francis Pryor, Curatorial Assistant, Archaeology, ROM.

November 8
The How and Why of Egyptian Pyramids, by Dr. N. B. Millet, Egyptian Department, ROM.

November 15
The Bible as History, by Dr. A. D. Tushingham, Chief Archaeologist, ROM.

Ancient Bronzes of Iran Tues. Nov. 6, 4:30 pm. Planetarium Lecture Room, Free
An illustrated lecture by Mr. Roger Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Sponsored by the Toronto Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The Role of Museums in Environmental Education Wed. Nov. 14 at 8:30 pm. Planetarium Lecture Room, Free
An illustrated lecture by Professor Geoffrey Stansfield of the Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester.

Excavations at the Palace Harbour of Malkata, Western Thebes Thurs. Nov. 15 at 8:30 pm. Planetarium Lecture Room, Free
An illustrated lecture by Dr. David O'Connor of the University of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities.

Lectures by Saka Acquaye Wednesdays at 8:30 pm. Planetarium Lecture Room, Free
Mr. Acquaye, a well known African sculptor, musician and playwright, will present two illustrated lectures. Arranged in co-operation with the African Ensemble, Inc.

November 21
Stools, Linguist Staff, and Figures

November 28
Kente Weaving and Colour Symbolism

Films

ROM presents NFB to March 27
Wednesdays at 7:15 pm. Free. ROM Theatre
Films by directors from the National Film Board of Canada.

November
7 Adelaide Village
Change in the Maritimes
Sir, Sir
The Summer we Moved to Elm Street
14 Paul Kane goes West
Hot Stuff
Race of the Snow Snake
Anger After Death
21 Wilf
Gore Road
Political Dynamite
28 Paul Tomkiwitz: Street Railway Switchman
Ballet Adagio
Mudflats Living
World in a Marsh

Sunday Films to March 17
Sundays, Theatre, free with Museum admission

November/ Family Films at 2.30
4 The Magic of George Méliès
The Time Between
11 The Thief of Bagdad (1924)
18 London to Brighton in Four Minutes
César's Bark Canoe
25 The Hellstrom Chronicle

November/ Evening Films at 7
4 The Time Between
Windows on the Past
The Intimate Details
11 La Petite Cuillère
The Tree That Put The Clock Back
18 London to Brighton in Four Minutes
César's Bark Canoe
25 The Hellstrom Chronicle
including a panel discussion

Tours

Kilim — Soumak — Cicim
Special tours of the exhibitions of flat woven rugs every Tuesday at 2 pm.

Planetarium Tours
Every Thursday at 2 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium.
Special Comet Kohoutek tours daily at 2 pm Nov. 20-23.

Canadiana Tours
Every Wednesday at 12:15 pm in the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building.

November
7 About Time and Clocks
14 Canadian Paintings
21 From Oven to Table
28 Let's Dig In

ROM Gallery Tours
Weekdays, except holidays. Free with Museum admission.

November/ at 12:15
1 Evolution of Mammals
2 Ancient Greece
5 Chinese Wall Paintings
6 Populating the Americas
7 European Porcelain

8 Windows on Nature's World
9 Japanese Art

12 Chinese Arts
13 Masks and Ceremonials
14 Evolution of Mammals
15 Man in Greek Art
16 Survival of the Fittest

19 Chinese Tomb Figurines
20 Geology — The Changing Earth
21 Jewellery Through the Ages
22 Native Peoples of Canada
23 19th Century Rooms

26 Glory of Athens
27 Windows on Nature's World
28 Islamic Art
29 Treasure Tour
30 Catch a Falling Star

November/ at 2
1 Planetarium
2 18th Century, Age of Elegance

5 Mesopotamia and Iran
6 Flat Woven Rugs
7 Gemstones
8 Planetarium
9 Arts of Ancient Egypt

12 Islamic Art
13 Flat Woven Rugs
14 English Period Rooms
15 Planetarium
16 Buddhist Art

19 Arts of India
20 Flat Woven Rugs
21 Faces of Ancient Rome
22 Planetarium
23 Death Among the Egyptians

26 Chinese Arts
27 Flat Woven Rugs
28 The Earth's Treasures
29 Planetarium
30 Arts of Ancient Egypt

Tours subject to change.

ROM Services

ROM Public Hours, 100 Queen's Park
Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am to 9 pm
Sunday: 1 to 9 pm
Monday: 10 am to 5 pm
Adult admission 50 cents, free after 5 pm. Accompanied children free. Senior citizens and students with identification free.

ROM Libraries
The Reference Library on the second level is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. The Astronomical Library, in the McLaughlin Planetarium, is open on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.

ROM Restaurants
A comfortable restaurant serving hot lunches and snacks is located on the main floor by the Armour Court and is open until 8 pm. The Dinosaur Den children's cafeteria, on the Lower Level, closes at 4 pm.

Members' Lounge
A quiet licensed lounge, located down the stairs by the main restaurant, is available to all members of the Museum. Mondays from 12 to 5 pm, Tuesdays to Fridays from 12 to 9 pm.

Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building
14 Queen's Park Cres. West
Monday to Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday: 1 to 5 pm. Admission is free.

Information
Museum: 928-3690 **Planetarium:** 928-8550

ROM Membership
Membership in the Museum is a rewarding experience. For $25 annually (individual), or $40 (family with two cards), a member receives free admission, use of the licensed Members' Lounge, a 10% discount at the three ROM Shops, invitations to preview parties, notices of special events, and *Rotunda*, the illustrated quarterly magazine.

Lifetime membership in the Museum is also invited as follows:
Life: $500
Fellow: $1,000
Benefactor: $2,500
Endowment: $5,000
Patron: $10,000
Fellow, Benefactor, Endowment and Patron categories are income tax deductible.

Call 928-3704 or write to the Membership Office, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6.

ROM on the Road

"When you see a stone pick it up. Look very, very closely. Maybe it was once alive . ." Valerie.

In 1972 the Royal Ontario Museum, with the support of the Ontario Government, instituted a programme of touring Museumobiles to take the Museum to the people. As ROM November was being written, there were two mobile museums in Ontario communities, and now, as you read it, there are three.

The most recent Museumobile "Man in Ontario — the first 12,000 years" has just started its tour of Ontario. Artifacts, specimens and printed material tell the story, in broadest outline, of man from the time he first arrived in Ontario some 12,000 to 13,000 years ago.

The first Museumobile, from ROM's department of Ethnology, carries artifacts from the Woodland Algonkian and Iroquoian cultures. Films, film strips, slides and publications show and explain aspects of Indian life and thought. This extension of the Museum's collections has been visiting schools and reserves in Ontario since the fall of 1972.

Tom McCue, the driver, reports that people are enthusiastic about the entire programme, finding the Museumobile both informative and stimulating. ". . . all the reserves visited have requested that the Museumobile return some time during the next year . . ." The people of one reserve, having just seen it, "immediately started to plan a bus of their own."

And the people themselves say "Why can't we do something like this ourselves." "(What a) grand opportunity for our children to see." "This is an excellent idea. I have never had a chance to get to Toronto but now I'll see it if I can get there."

Visitors inside Ethnology Museumobile, summer 1973.

In one town, McCue met the curator of the local museum. His opinion of the Museumobile? ROM should be "damn proud of it."

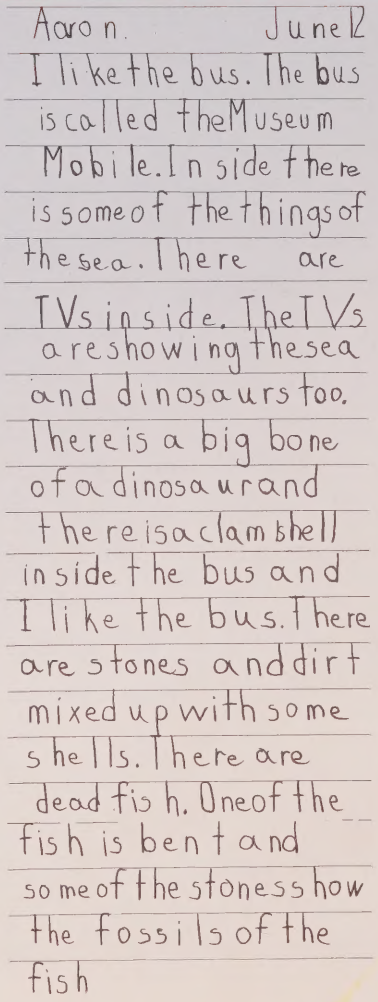
Robert Kirkman, the driver-guide, boarded ROM's second Museumobile in June of this year. Carrying a display of rock and fossil specimens, visual and printed material, the Museumobile endeavours to create a better understanding of fossils and to tell the story of Ontario for two billion years.

Kirkman was in for quite a surprise at his first opportunity to observe students. ". . . Within a few hours all my thoughts were positive. The reactions of the students (in) all grades has been tremendous. Not only was I pelted with a thousand and one questions, but also by fossils that in the eyes of the owners were potential missing links. Although (they) find it difficult to understand the amount of time involved in the study of fossils there was certainly a great deal of interest . . ."

"The lower the grade the more abundant the questions and also the harder to answer. How big were Mammoths, Dinosaurs or Mastodons? How much does the bus weigh? Where does the bus come from? How many types of coral are there? What kind of food does a trilobite eat?"

However, it is not only the children who expect Kirkman to know any and all the answers known to man. Having rapidly gained recognition as being 'the Museum,' he was approached in a restaurant by one of the waitresses with a white moth in hand and asked if it was common or not.

From the start, children made drawings and wrote stories about fossils and the Museumobile. The school officials were happy to send a selection to ROM, thus providing two billion years of Ontario history as seen by children.


Aaron. June 12
I like the bus. The bus is called the Museum Mobile. Inside there is some of the things of the sea. There are TVs inside. The TVs are showing the sea and dinosaurs too. There is a big bone of a dinosaur and there is a clam shell inside the bus and I like the bus. There are stones and dirt mixed up with some shells. There are dead fish. One of the fish is bent and some of the stones show the fossils of the fish

"Many of the fossils have a picture on them. Sometimes even a foot-print is a fossil. The foot-print is burried in the mud and then it turns to stone," writes one grade one pupil. A year older, Paula Hauff in grade two says "This is the thing you do not see very much. It looks like leaves and flower petals. But they are stone. It was an old plant that had died along time ago and it was called a plant remains." Janice Gault in grade four remarked "The coral reminded me of a cauliflower," and when you stop to think about it, it really does!

A poetic look at fossils was provided by Alison McLauchlan of grade five. "Fossils are rock or bones with wings and shapes of thing that were around millions of years ago." And budding palaeontologist Erik Kerstenbeck, another grade five student, went to great lengths, quite accurately providing a complete story of the Museumobile's message. In his final paragraph he concludes ". . . Some day the beings that live on this earth today may be fossils tomorrow."

When that day comes, and the 'beings of today are fossils,' the Royal Ontario Museum will still be taking the Museum to the people.

Editor

New Members of the Royal Ontario Museum

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